




The Complete Peanuts, 1955-1958

Charles M. Schulz

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A gift set of the third and fourth *Complete Peanuts* volumes.

A boxed set of the third and fourth volumes, just in time for the holidays, designed by the award-winning graphic novelist, Seth! The collection of books identical to the individual volumes ships shrinkwrapped, with Vols. 1955-1956 and 1957-1958 packed in a sturdy custom box designed especially for this set. The perfect gift item.

The Complete Peanuts 1955-1956 takes us into the mid-1950s as Linus learns to talk, Snoopy begins to explore his eccentricities (including his hilarious first series of impressions), Lucy's unrequited crush on Schroeder takes final shape, and Charlie Brown becomes...well, even more Charlie Brown-ish! Over half of the strips in this volume have never been printed since their original appearance in newspapers a half-century ago! Even the most dedicated Peanuts collector/fan is sure to find many new treasures.

In *The Complete Peanuts 1957-1958*, *Peanuts* definitively enters its golden age. Linus, who had just learned to speak in the previous volume, becomes downright eloquent and even begins to fend off Lucy's bullying; even so, his security neurosis becomes more pronounced, including a harrowing two-week "Lost Weekend" sequence of blanketlessness. Charlie Brown cascades further down the hill to loserdom, with spectacularly lost kites, humiliating baseball losses (including one where he becomes "the Goat" and is driven from the field in a chorus of BAAAAHs); at least his newly acquired "pencil pal" affords him some comfort. Pig-Pen, Sherm, Violet, and Patty are also around, as is an increasingly Beethoven-fixated Schroeder. But the rising star is undoubtedly Snoopy. He's at the center of the most graphically dynamic and action-packed episodes (the ones in which he attempts to grab Linus's blanket at a dead run). He even tentatively tries to sleep on the crest of his doghouse roof once or twice, with mixed results. And his imitations continue apace, including penguins, anteaters, sea monsters, vultures and (much to her chagrin) Lucy. No wonder the beagle is the cover star not only of this volume but also of the beautiful collector's slipcase to this set!

Charles M. Schulz was born November 25, 1922 in Minneapolis. His destiny was foreshadowed when an uncle gave him, at the age of two days, the nickname Sparky (after the racehorse Spark Plug in the newspaper strip *Barney Google*).

In his senior year in high school, his mother noticed an ad in a local newspaper for a correspondence school, Federal Schools (later called Art Instruction Schools). Schulz passed the talent test, completed the course and began trying, unsuccessfully, to sell gag cartoons to magazines. (His first published drawing was of his dog, Spike, and appeared in a 1937 Ripley's *Believe It Or Not!* installment.) Between 1948 and 1950, he succeeded in selling 17 cartoons to the *Saturday Evening Post*—as well as, to the local *St. Paul Pioneer Press*, a weekly comic feature called *Li'l Folks*. It was run in the women's section and paid \$10 a week. After writing and drawing the feature for two years, Schulz asked for a better location in the paper or for daily exposure, as well as a raise. When he was turned down on all three counts, he quit.

He started submitting strips to the newspaper syndicates. In the spring of 1950, he received a letter from the United Feature Syndicate, announcing their interest in his submission, *Li'l Folks*. Schulz boarded a train in June for New York City; more interested in doing a strip than a panel, he also brought along the first installments of what would become *Peanuts*—and that was what sold. (The title, which Schulz loathed to his

dying day, was imposed by the syndicate). The first *Peanuts* daily appeared October 2, 1950; the first Sunday, January 6, 1952.

Diagnosed with cancer, Schulz retired from *Peanuts* at the end of 1999. He died on February 13, 2000, the day before Valentine's Day—and the day before his last strip was published—having completed 17,897 daily and Sunday strips, each and every one fully written, drawn, and lettered entirely by his own hand—an unmatched achievement in comics.

The Complete Peanuts, 1955-1958 Details

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From Reader Review The Complete Peanuts, 1955-1958 for online ebook

Michael says

Brilliant.

Oceana2602 says

More Peanuts love!

In these early books, you can see the development of Schulz's drawing style. Plus, Linus learns to talk (although it'll take a while until he becomes my favourite character) and Lucy crushes on Schroeder.

S.D. says

Please see my comprehensive review, entered for The Complete Peanuts 1969-1970 (Volume 10)

James says

The greatest comic strip of all times is being collected in these beautiful editions. Published at a rate of 2 volumes a year, each fall both of the volumes are collected in a beautiful slip-case edition. These are a standing Christmas present from my wife, who didn't quite realize what she was getting into. It's amazing to watch the comic evolve over time, the shapes of the characters, the characters who get dropped, the new (and classic!) characters who get introduced. To my college friends who remember my ambition to reproduce "Hamlet" with the characters from Peanuts, I say my life's work is now possible (in a few years, anyway.)
